

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: February 02, 2023

Report Number: RO2023-0002

Report Name: Avian Influenza Detected in a Romanian Commercial Turkey Farm

Country: Romania

Post: Bucharest

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

At the end of January 2023, Romania's Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health (IDAH) confirmed one primary and two secondary outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial turkey operation located in central Romania. An inventory of more than 220,000 head is scheduled for culling. The movement of live birds, meat, and other products from/to the area subject to veterinary restrictions is negatively impacted. The last HPAI outbreak in a commercial poultry farm occurred in March 2022.

General Information:

On January 27, 2023, IDAH confirmed an HPAI outbreak, H5N1 subtype, in a 65,000-bird commercial turkey farm located in Codlea, Brasov County (Central Romania, Chart 1). In the following days, two secondary outbreaks of 44,000 and 113,00 head, respectively, owned by the same turkey producer, tested positive. The three farms were in the same area, shared the same personnel, trucks for transporting feed, and trucks for disposing dead birds. The full farm inventories -- including all materials which could pose a risk of infection spreading -- will be culled/destroyed in the upcoming days. The process of culling more than 220,000 birds is in progress.

Following the confirmation, the Romanian Sanitary-Veterinary and Food Safety Authority established surveillance and protection zones around the outbreak site to isolate the outbreak and prevent the virus from spreading. Movement restrictions on birds, personnel, vehicles, and feed have been imposed for a timeframe of at least 30 days since the conclusion of cleaning and disinfection operations. Nine commercial poultry farms, of which five turkey farms (of which two are unpopulated) and four broiler farms (of which two are unpopulated) fall in the protection zone (3-km radius). In the surveillance zone (10-km radius), there are 17 commercial farms, which include three turkey farms, three broiler farms, 10 laying hen farms, one breeding hen farm, two slaughterhouses, and one hatchery farm. All of these farms have been inspected and are monitored. Sample testing has raised no further suspicions so far. Monitoring intensified at the border level as well, especially at the inspection border points through which trade with live poultry, poultry meat, and eggs occur.

Romanian turkey meat production accounts for a small fraction of the total poultry production. After a dip in 2020, generated by the COVID restrictions, turkey meat production recovered. According to the data published by the National Institute of Statistics, turkey production reached 21,000 MT carcass liveweight in 2021, up from 15,552 MT in 2020, accounting for about three percent of the total Romanian poultry production. Brasov county, in which the HPAI outbreaks were confirmed, along with a few other counties, is part of the region which has the highest concentration of turkey production. In 2021, about 1.5 million turkey heads were slaughtered in this region out of the 2 million head slaughtered at the national level.

The previous HPAI outbreak in a commercial farm occurred in March 2022, when a 33,900-bird commercial laying hen farm located in southern Romania tested positive. Since then, there have been only cases of positive HPAI in wild birds.

Chart 1. Romania – Location of the HPAI outbreaks, January 2023



Source: World Organization for Animal Health

Attachments:

No Attachments.